



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/812,105	03/19/2001	Masahiko Igaki	P/2856-21	9666

7590 06/28/2005

Steven I. Weisburd
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY LLP
1177 Avenue of the Americas
41st Floor
New York, NY 10036-2714

EXAMINER

AZARIAN, SEYED H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/812,105 ✓

Applicant(s)

IGAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Seyed Azarian

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,7-14 and 21-24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6 and 15-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 18-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/24/2005.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT

1. Applicant's arguments, filed, 3/18/2005, see page 11 through 13, of remarks with respect to the rejection of claims 1-24 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is necessitated by applicant's amendment is made.

2. Applicant's argues in essence regarding claim 1, that Haruki does not teach, " number of unprocessed mail item received and assigned".

Contrary to the applicant's assertion, Haruki clearly states, (column 3, line 63 through column 4 lines 8, Distributor 2 generates transfer data in the format (image) shown in Fig, 3C upon **receiving the rejected data** (unprocessed data) the distributor selects one of the conventional coding devices, each having a display for **displaying rejected image**. When the operator watches the rejected image on the display and inputs the correct zip code, Fig. 4, shows a sorting control unit that includes a random access memory storing waiting table, read only memory, counter and control unit (column 3, line 63 through column 4, line 8). Also, (column 2 lines 7-12, the distributor is provided with an assigning controller and a memory which stores control tables (memory storing waiting table). The control tables contain information about the mail sorters and coding devices such as the frequency and number of rejections by each recognition unit and the processing condition of the coding -device). Haruki further states, (column 3, lines 45-48, FIG.3A which includes a designation code, reading time and mail serial number, the latter two of which are determined by reading unit) and (column 4, lines 17-19, the content of the counter 143 is the earliest mail to arrive at the sorting section, the Early Mail Serial Number indicates the earliest mail to arrive at the sorting station).

Examiner feels that the above references clearly show that Haruki discloses a process of displaying the number of unprocessed mail, Examiner would like to reiterate as cited above that Fig. 3C and column 3, lines 63-65, that each coding device has a CRT display and that the data in Fig.3C includes Reading Time (RT) Mail Serial Number (MSN assigned by Reader when mail is received) SorterNumber (SN) and Image Data (ID), this is generated (displayed on CRT) for the Operator to view.

However, as Applicant currently amended the claim and deleted "assigned" the 103 actions and reference is no longer relevant. Haruki clearly states, upon **receiving the rejected data** (unprocessed data) which are conventional coding devices each having display for **displaying rejected image**. Also, (column 3, lines 2-11, Distributor is provided with an **Assigning Controller** which enables the Distributor to select the appropriate device to which data (unprocessed mail) should be transferred and each mail sorter includes a **reading device**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4, 6 and 15-17, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Haruki et al (U.S. patent 4,632,252).

Regarding claim 1, Haruki discloses a postal information input apparatus in which when a postcode to be read by a reader of a postal matter sorting machine cannot be normally read, a correct postcode is reentered manually from an input device, comprising (column 2, lines 4-24, the coding device displays the rejected image on display device so that the operator can enter correct data such as the correct zip code);

a display which indicates that postal information input apparatus has receives a data to be input from said postal matter sorting machine, (Fig. 3, column 3, line 63 through column 4, line 8, CRT display the rejected image and a key board for inputting the correct zip codes by operator);

also indicates a number of unprocessed mail item received by said postal information input apparatus (column 3, line 63 through column 4, line 8, distributor 2 generates transfer data in the format (image) shown in Fig, 3C upon receiving the rejected data (unprocessed data) the distributor selects one of the conventional coding devices, each having a display for displaying rejected image. When the operator watches the rejected image on the display and inputs the correct zip code, Fig. 4, shows a sorting control unit that includes a random access memory storing waiting table, read only memory, counter and control unit (column 3, line 63 through column 4, line 8). Also, (column 2 lines 7-12, the distributor is provided with an assigning controller and a memory which stores control tables (memory storing waiting table).

Regarding claim 4, Haruki discloses a postal information input apparatus, wherein said first display is an icon display (column 3, lines 8-24, scanning postal mail to read the zip code or address printed on the mail).

Regarding claim 6, Haruki discloses a postal information input apparatus, wherein a display deletion means for deleting said display, when said data to be input corresponding to said display is input within a predetermined time, is provided (Fig. 7, column 6, line 61 through column 7, line 6, refer to deleting step, also column 6, line 61 through column 7, line 6, rejected data left in the file unit, a predetermined time larger than any expected actual time is written).

Regarding claim 15, Haruki discloses a data display method for prompting an operator of a postal information input apparatus to supply a postal code unrecognized by a postal matter sorting machine, comprising, sending information associated with a rejected mail item whose postal code could not be recognized by the postal matter sorting machine to a postal information input apparatus (column 3, line 52 through column 4, line 7, Fig. 3B when mail is rejected by the recognition unit (unrecognized), the rejected data includes not only reading time and mail serial number, but also unrecognized image data, At the same time rejected data is supplied to distributor. Upon receiving the rejected data for displaying the rejected image for inputting the correct zip code);

Display a first indication that information associated with the reject mail item has been received by the input apparatus and requires operator input, second indication of the number of rejected mail item associated with the information received by the input apparatus requiring operator input (column 4, lines 1-19, when the operator watches the rejected image on the CRT display and inputs the correct zip code);

Display some or all of the information received on the input apparatus display, and receiving operator input of the correct postcode based on the information displayed (column 4, lines 49-62).

Regarding claim 16, Haruki discloses the method of claim 15, further comprising, deleting the first indication after operator input has been received (column 5, lines 31-47, deleting rejected data).

Regarding claim 17, Haruki discloses the method of claim 15, further comprising, updating the second indication after operator input has been received (column 5, line 65 through column 6, line 9, updating the control table).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 18-20 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable claims

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The claims 2 representative of claims 7-12 and 21 are allowable due to the "first display which indicate that said postal information input apparatus has received data to be input from postal matter sorting machine, and second display which indicates that if said data to be input "cannot be input within a predetermined time, said predetermined time has passed".

The closest prior art of record (Haruki) teaches for a mail sorting system is provided which includes a plurality of mail sorters and coding devices. But neither teach or suggest that "if data to be input cannot be input within a predetermined time, said predetermined time has passed.

These key features in combination with the other features of the claimed invention are neither taught nor suggested by the art of record.

Claims 2-3, 5, 7-14 and 21-24 are allowable.

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Seyed Azarian whose telephone number is (571) 272-7443. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta, can be reached at (571) 272-7453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published application may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

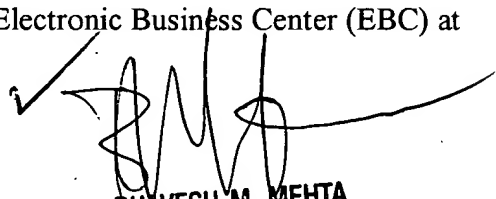
Status information about the PAIR system, see [http:// pair-direct.uspto.gov](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov). Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Seyed Azarian

Patent Examiner

Group Art Unit 2625

June 20, 2005



BHAVESH M. MEHTA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600